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UNITED STATES PATENT APPLICATION

APPLICANT: KARIN LYNN PETERSON

TITLE: NIGHT LIGHT WITH SLEEP TIMER

CONFIDENTIAL AND PROPRIETARY DOCUMENT

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REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

PROVISIONAL APPLICATION FILED BY APPLICANT ON OR ABOUT 12-20-02, COPY ATTACHED.

I invented a nightlight with a sleep timer. A timer is located on the front of the housing of the nightlight. When the unit is plugged in and the timer is set to a specific time, the light turns on. After that specific time has elapsed, the light turns off.

Many young children prefer the comfort of a nightlight when they go to bed, but their caregivers would prefer them to sleep in darkness. A University of Pennsylvania study has even shown that children who sleep with a light on may have a higher risk of developing nearsightedness as they get older[1]. This invention allows the child to go to sleep with the night light on, but the "sleep timer" turns the light off after the child has gone to sleep.

A crib light that shuts off automatically currently exists, but the light goes off after a predetermined time interval of 5 to 10 minutes. Since some children might stay awake for an hour or more after going to bed, the advantage of my nightlight is it allows the caregiver to set the length of time the light is to be on, up to several hours.

I have included two drawings.

Figure 1 is a front view of the nightlight showing the timer.

Figure 2 is a side view of the nightlight showing the electrical prongs.

The components of my invention are:

- A housing 12 which is preferably formed of molded plastic.
- A low wattage light bulb 10 fits into the housing 12.
- A timer knob 14 is located on the front of the housing 12.
- The housing plugs into an electrical outlet with the prongs 16.

The method or arrangement of wiring or connecting the electronic components will be well-known to those with ordinary skill in electronics.

The nightlight achieves its result as follows:

- When the nightlight is plugged into an outlet, and the timer knob is turned clockwise to a time, the light turns on. The light turns off after that amount of time has elapsed.

Alternative embodiments of the nightlight with a sleep timer are described below:

- The housing could consist of various designs, colors or materials.
- A cover for the light bulb could be used, and could consist of various designs, colors or materials.
  The timer knob and display could be a different size or design.
  The timer knob could rotate in a different direction.

- The timer range could be for a longer or shorter period of time.
  The timer could be digital.
  Instead of a low-wattage nightlight, a standard wattage bulb and accompanying electronics could be used.
- The light bulb could be a variety of wattages or sizes or types.
- The nightlight could include music such as a lullaby.
- The electrical prongs could be polarized.

While the form of apparatus herein described constitutes a preferred embodiment of the invention, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to this precise form of apparatus, and that changes may be made therein without departing from the scope of the invention.

1 Reference: Quinn, G.E., Shin, C.H., Maguire, M.G. and Stone, R.A. Myopia and ambient lighting at night. Nature, 399:113-114, 1999 (May 13, 1999).

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I FIELD OF THE INVENTION

This invention relates to a nightlight with a sleep timer .

11 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Many young children prefer the comfort of a nightlight when they go to bed, but their caregivers would prefer them to sleep in darkness. A University ofPennsylvania study, Quinn, G.E., Shin, C.H., Maguire, M.G. and Stone, R.A. Myopia and ambient lighting at night. Nature, 399: 113-114,1999 (May 13,1999), has shown that children who sleep with a light on may have a higher risk of developing nearsightedness as they get older .

A crib light that shuts off automatically currently exists, but the light goes off after a predetermined time interval of 5 to 10 minutes. Since some children might stay awake for an hour or more after going to bed, the advantage of my nightlight is it allows the caregiver to set the length of time the light is to be on, up to several hours.

In U.S. Patent 5,148,356 the time which the light is on cannot be varied. In U.S. Patent 5,057,051 the extent of illumination can be vareid, but not the time of illumination. In U.S. Patent 6,242,872 a timer, an illuminating device and a socket are disclosed. But this device is much more expensive than the present invention.

IlI A OBJECTS OF THE INVENTION

One object of this invention is to allow the child to go to sleep with a night light or music. Another object is to provide structure whereby the the light and or music is turned off after the child has gone to sleep.

III B. SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

A timer is located on or adjacent a housing of a nightlight assembly.

When this assembly is plugged into a source of electric currect, the timer is set to a selected time for a light and /or music to remain on. After this selected time has elapsed, the light or music automatically terns off, allowing for sleep in appropriate darkness.

The advantage of the nightlight is it allows the caregiver to set the length of time the light and/or music is to be on, up to several hours.

IV THE DRAWINGS.

Figure I is a front view of the nightlight showing the timer .

Figure 2 is a side view of the nightlight showing the electrical prongs.

V DESCRIPTION OF PREFFERRED EMBODIMENTS

The components of the nightlight assembly 1 include the following.

A housing 12 which is preferably formed of molded plastic. A low wattage light bulb 10 fits into the housing 12. A timer 13 includes a knob 14 located on the front of the housing 12. The housing plugs into an electrical outlet (not shown) with an optional electrical cord cord 15 and prongs 16. The arrangement of wiring or connecting the electronic components will be well-known to those with ordinary skill in electronics.

The nightlight assembly 1 achieves its result as follows. When the nightlight is plugged with prongs 16 into an outlet, and the timer knob 14 is turned clockwise to a time, the light turns 10 on. The light 10 turns off after that amount of time has elapsed.

Alternative embodiments of the nightlight with the timer include the following.

The housing 12 may comprise various designs, colors or materials. A cover 18 for the light bulb may be used. The cover may include of various designs, colors or materials.

The timer range may be for a longer or shorter period of time. The timer may be be digital.

Instead of a low-wattage nightlight 10, a standard wattage bulb and accompanying electronics may be used. The light bulb may be a variety of wattages or sizes or types.

The night light assembly may include a source of music 20 such as a a tape, CD or record player to play a lullaby or other music. Electrical prongs 16 may be polarized for safety.

While the form of apparatus herein described constitutes a preferred embodiment of the invention, it is to be understood that the invention is not limited to this precise form of apparatus, and that changes may be made therein without departing from the scope of the invention.